LIBRARY

HEALTH
27 JUN 49
R. 28

STROUD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF

T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

1 9 4 8

JUNE 1949

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1948, which in accordance with Circular 3/49 is an abridged one.

Infectious Diseases. There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year.

Scarlet Fever. 23 cases were notified as compared with 18 last year. In suitable cases removal to hospital is not insisted upon. Last year 13 cases were isolated at home. Since the closing of Cashes Green Isolation Hospital, Stroud for infectious diseases on 5th July, hospital cases are accommodated at the Isolation Hospital, Over, Gloucester.

Diphtheria. One case in a girl of 15 years was notified. She had been immunised. The diagnosis was not confirmed after admission to hospital.

This disease is gradually disappearing from the district as a result of the Immunisation Campaign. Immunisation is undertaken at the Infant Welfare Centres, by the General Medical practitioners, and at a regular monthly clinic in Stroud. School childred receive a maintenance dose on entering school at 4 - 5 years of age, and again at the age of ten.

Cerebro Spinal Fever. One case was notified last year

Infantile Paralysis. Two cases were notified, a girl of 1 year and a boy of 4 months; the latter case was a contact of his mother from outside the area, who had been temporarily sent to friends whilst the mother was in hospital with the disease.

Tuberculosis. Notifications and Death Rates per million

Notifications		Death Rates per million	
1939	22	1939	448
1940	23	1940	595
1941	21	1941	441
1942	24	1942	386
1943	28	1943	511
1944	38	1944	668
1945	45	1945	558
1946	48	1946	555
1947	40	1947	706
1948	33	1948	724

Of the 33 cases notified, 4 were non-pulmonary and 29 lung infections.

Notifications were received from the following districts:-

Stonehouse	6	Horsley	3
Randwick	1	Chalford	3
Rodborough	1	Thrupp	5
Kings Stanley	3	Painswick	3
Minchinhampton	4	Miserden	1
Woodchester	1	Bisley	2

Housing. The Council continue to devote considerable time and energy to endeavouring to provide new houses for the inhabitants of the district.

POST WAR COUNCIL HOUSES

POSITION TO 31ST DECEMBER 1948.

Site No.	Address	No. of Houses to be built	No. under construction	No. completed
1	R ddings, Stonehouse	16	3	13
2	Box Lane, M'hampton	14	2	12
3	Canton Acre, Painswick	14	Nil	14
4	Park Site, Stonehouse	118	Nil	Nil
5	The Marsh, L. Stanley	8 (Airey)	4	4
6	North Bisley	6	6	Nil
7	Chalford (Whiting)	2	2	Nil
8	Kingscourt, Rodborough	6	Nil	Nil
9-15	Swedish Timber Houses	20	Nil	20
16	War Memorial Site Whiteshill	6	Nil	6
17	Bridgend Estate Stonehouse	18 (Airey)	4	14
18	Orphanage Site, Eastcombe	42	Nil	6
19	St. Georges Avenue Kings Stanley	4	Nil	4
20	Westrip, Randwick	28 (12 Airey)	18	10
21	Arthurs Press Woodchester	6 (Airey)	Nil	6
22	Frith Wood, Chalford	10 (Airey)	8	2
23	Horsley	4	4	Nil
24	Oakridge Lynch	6	6	Nil
25	Cranham	6	Nil	Nil
	TOTALS	334	57	111

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

HOUSES COMPLETED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION

POSITION TO 31ST DECEMBER 1948

Parish	No of Applications	No of Houses Licenced	No under construction	No completed and occupied
Bisley	11	6	Nil	6
Chalford	7	5	Nil	5
King's Stanley	8	5	Nil	5
Minchinhampton	32	16	3	13
Painswick	24	7	Nil	7
Thrupp	19	13	Nil	13
Stonehouse	Nil	1	1	Nil
Rodborough	3	2	Nil	2
Whiteshill	1	1	Nil	1
Woodchester	9	8	Nil	8
Cranham	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Randwick	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	117	64	4	60

CONVERSION OF DWELLINGHOUSES INTO FLATS

SCHEMES CARRIED OUT BY COUNCIL

POSITION TO 31ST DECEMBER 1948

Address	No of flats to be constructed	No of flats completed
Vatch House, Slad	5	5
Meldon House, Stonehouse	3	3
Box House, Minchinhampton	6	6
Manor House, Rodborough	4	4
British Restaraunt, Thrupp	4	4
TOTALS	22	22

CONVERSION OF DWELLINGHOUSES INTO FLATS AND SCHEMES FOR PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION CARRIED OUT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

POSITION TO 31ST DECEMBER 1948

Parish	No. of Licences issued	No. of flats etc. to be provided	No. completed and occupied
Bisley	4	5	5
Chalford	4	5	5
Cranham	2	2	1
King's Stanley	4	12	12
Leonard Stanley	1	4	4
Minchinhampton	16	22	20
Miserden	3	3	3
Painswick	15	19	14
Randwick	1	1	1
Rodborough	4	6	3
Stonehouse	3	6	1
Thrupp	2	2	2
Woodchester	6	16	13
TOTALS	65	103	84

SUMMARY OF POST WAR HOUSING

POSITION TO 31ST DECEMBER 1948

Houses completed		Flats etc completed		No of Requis: Props:	No of War Damaged Houses re-built	No of families for which acc: provided	
Council	Private	Council	Private			Council	Private
111	60	22	84	51	3	184	147

Sewerage. Last year a start was made in the scheme for the sewering of the district, including the trunk sewers, and the main disposal works at Stanley Downton. When completed the fouling of the streams and water courses in the district will be largely obviated, and a potential danger to health eliminated.

Water Supply. The water supplied by the Stroud District Water Board, although hard, is of excellent quality and, generally speaking, sufficient in quantity.

I am indebted to Mr. Alan N. Peters, Enginer and Manager for the following information on the progress of the extensions. A scheme for providing a piped supply in the Parishes of Bisley and Miserden was completed and connections were made from various mains as from 31st March, and by the end of the year , 191 connections were made to this supply. Since the Eastcombe reservoir has been in use a 24 hour supply as been available in the Eastcombe area.

In the parishes of Whiteshill and Randwick, some of the mains were completed by the 31st March and connections began to be made from this date. The whole of the main laying was completed by the end of July and up to date 115 connections have been made. The Booster installations to supply the higher areas above Randwick and Whiteshill have yet to be completed.

In the Rural District it is estimated that 63% of the houses in the area have been connected to the main supply.

Analyses. During the year 54 samples of water have been examined and in 47, B.Coli was found to be absent in 100 ccs. All the water supplied is chlorinated at their various works.

Section 47. National Assistance Act 1948. So far, it has not been found necessary to take action under this section, which provides for the compulsory removal to a suitable home or hospital of aged, inform and physically incapacitated persons. There is no doubt, however, that further suitable homes will become increasingly necessary to deal with these persons.

Meat and other Foods. All the slaughtering for the district is concentrated in the Stroud Urban District Council at the Abattoir at Ebley.

In the case of cows it was reported that 45.2% of those killed were affected with tuberculosis. The Sanitary Inspectors last year paid special attention to the duties laid upon Local Authorities by the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

These duties include the regular inspection of registered food premises, cafes, restaraunts and ice cream premises.

Every effort is made to ensure clean, sanitary premises and to impress upon food handlers the importance of personal cleanliness and hygiene. As regards milk, increasing amounts of designated milks are being produced in the area. The public are rightly demanding not only a clean milk, but a safe milk, and it is encouraging to think that after many years propaganda, it is probable that the sale of raw non-designated will cease in a few years. Until such time as tuberculosis is eliminated from the dairy herds of the country, there is no doubt that an efficient pasteurised milk is the safest for general consumption.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate. 17.4 per 1,000 as compared with 19.3 per 1,000 last year and 17.9 per 1,000 (England & Wales).

Maternity Mortality. Nil

Death Rate. 12.2 per 1,000 as compared with 14.8 per 1,000 last year and 10.8 per 1,000 (England & Wales)

Infantile Mortality. 50.4 as compared with 42.5 per 1,000 last year and 34.0 per 1,000 (England & Wales)

Diarrhoea under 2 years of age. 4.4 per 1,000 Live Births as compared with 3.3 per 1,000 (England & Wales).

The principal causes of death last year were:-

Heart Diseases	106
Cancer	47
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.....	36
Respiratory diseases.....	25
Tuberculosis.....	19

No deaths were recorded for last year from Diphtheria, Measles or road traffic accidents.

Factories Act 1937. There are in the district 21 Factories in which sections 1 - 6 are enforced by the Local Authority and 93 in which Section 7 is enforced.

The number of inspections made was 95.

Notices were served in 5 instances to remedy defective sanitary conveniences .

No prosecutions were found necessary.

Summary

Generally speaking we may say that the health of the District continues to be satisfactory.

Diphtheria is rapidly becoming a disease of the past, with an immense saving every year of young lives.

Drainage facilities and water supplies are gradually being extended to the whole district, and the constant vigilance of the Sanitary Inspectors is doing much to prevent serious nuisances and to protect the food and milk supplies.

One hopes that the time will soon come when the Sanitary Authority will be able to meet the demand for housing accommodation and to deal more rapidly with the large number of unfit dwellings in the area.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Council and Members of the Health Committee for their support during the year and the staff for the assistance I have received.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) Nicholas D. Dunscombe.

Medical Officer of Health